GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:359
ANSWERED ON:13.12.2000
WORLD BANK ASSISTANCE
SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have urged the World Bank to do away with the present practice of linking issues such as power sector reforms and GDP growth while providing assistance to the projects under the scheme to improve the health infrastructure in the States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a meeting was held between him and the visiting President of World Bank;

(d) if so, the response of the visiting President;

(e) whether such linkages are benefiting only well off States instead of States which really need health infrastructure; and

(f) if so, the future strategy being chalked out by the Government to get the aid from World Bank for health infrastructure?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) to(f): A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 359 FOR 13.12.2000

The internationally-funded national disease control programmes are being implemented without any linkages to policy reforms in unrelated sectors. Three of the internationally-funded programmes - National Leprosy Eradication Project, Cataract Blindness Control Programme and Reproductive and Child Health Project - are being implemented in the entire country. Two of the internationally funded projects - Revised National TB Control Programme and Enhanced Malaria Control Programme - are being implemented in parts of the country selected on the basis of developmental norms related to disease burden, percentage of tribal population, etc.

This Ministry has evolved a priority list of States on the basis of the magnitude of their requirement for assistance in the public health sector. This priority list has relied on norms relating to Crude Birth Rate, Crude Death Rate, Infant Mortality Rate, Couple Protectior Rate, percentage of population below poverty line and per capita Government expenditure on health. The Ministry of Health & Family Welfare is assisting the States featuring high on the priority list to formulate projects for posing for international funding. The Ministry will be giving priority to States featuring high on the priority list in seeking international funding. The Ministry`s policy for posing States Health System Projects for international funding was also brought to the notice of the World Bank President by the Health & Family Welfare Minister during their recent meeting.